

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION HELD 15 SEPTEMBER 1952

SUBJECT: Meeting of the POC in State Department on Psychological Warfare Intelligence Support

1. I attended the meeting of the Psychological Operations Coordinating Committee on instruction from the DD/I to represent him with respect to General Balmer's proposal recently submitted to the POC and dealing with the subject of establishing a central point for psychological intelligence support.

2. The Executive Secretary reported that the State Department recommended that instead of referring this problem to the staff of the POC it be referred to the Intelligence area of the State Department.

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3. [redacted] the CIA representative, invited me to make a comment on this. My comments were along the following lines:

a. That the State suggestion is satisfactory.

b. That CIA had for the last year and a half been interested in the way in which psychological intelligence support is provided to the planners and operators. It had undertaken a survey of the needs in the government among both the operators and planners on the one hand and the resources of intelligence on the other. This paper, dated 21 June, though generally agreed to had not been formally approved by the agencies concerned. I pointed out that the arrangements noted in this paper had been interrupted by a number of factors, including budgetary conditions of the State Department, and that it may be that today something additional is required. I noted that CIA had not changed its view that the State Department was the agency with primary responsibility (though not exclusive) for the production of psychological intelligence.

c. I stated that we had been in discussion with the State Department to see what could be done to improve the situation and among other alternatives were considering the possibility that an interagency committee, possibly a subcommittee of the IAC, might greatly aid.

d. I suggested that it might be desirable for the POC staff to be associated with a committee or other mechanism as was established. I noted that the DD/I had made a similar suggestion to the PSB only last week.

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State Department review completed

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4. General Balmer and the Defense Department representative Mr. Godel were satisfied with the action proposed by the State Department and with the comments which I made.

5. In subsequent discussion I took occasion to point out that operators and planners should criticize for the benefit of intelligence, the adequacy of intelligence materials currently being made available in this field. It would also be extremely helpful if they would consult with intelligence at an early date regarding their needs in a given project. I noted the danger that without such consultation and refinement of the questions, the intelligence needs of psychological operators and planners might be so general and encyclopedic as to make fulfillment impossible with existing or foreseeable resources.

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